Budget a reversal has been made of this policy resulting in the suffering of common man;

(c) whether there is any relationship between the prices of the textile fibres and yarns and the retail prices of the synthetic/synthetic blended textile fabrics; and

(d) whether Government are considering review of the Textile Policy of 1985; if so, when the new policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The duties on man-made textiles were substantially reduced in 1985 and 1988. While the incidence of taxes was lowered, there have been complaints that the consumer did not get the corresponding benefit. In the budget for 1990-91 the duty structure has been revised keeping in mind the ability of different sectors to bear the additional burden. This would also help the competitiveness of the Handloom Sector where the dominant fibre is cotton.

(c) The retail prices of synthetic/ synthetic blended textile fabrics depend on a variety of factors which include prices of textile fibres and yarns, cost of various input, demand and supply position, fashion trend, distribution channel etc.

(d) The Committee which was appointed by the Government under the Chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain to review the progress of implementation of the Textile Policy of 1985 has submitted its report. This report is under consideration of the Government.

National Mineral Development Policy

463. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal for formulation of a National Mineral Development Policy;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and what progress has so far been made in this regard; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) and (b) The formulation of the National Mineral Policy for non-fuel and non-atomic minerals had been under consideration of Government. The policy document has since been finalised and approved by Government.

The policy document provides comprehensive policy frame-work for development of mineral resources of the country. Optimal use of available resources with scientific methods of mining, conservation and beneficiation, and economic utilisation constitute the essentials of the mineral policy. Emphasis has been laid on survey and exploration of strategic minerals and of minerals in which the country's resource position is just adequate or deficient, maintenance of national inventory of mineral resources, dissemination of information on technological changes, conservation as a positive concept through augmentation of resources and utilisation of low grade ore, recycling of scrap and waste materials, research and development to improve the competitive edge of national mining industry and adequate care for protection of environment and ecology. The assured supply of mineral based inputs to the user industries, avoidance of

wastage of resources and optimisation of their utilisation are the primary thrust of the policy document. It also envisages that the indigenous mineral industry shall be gradually attuned to the changing international economic situation.

(c) Does not arise.

Bringing of Gold into the Country by NRIs

464. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to allow NRIs to bring gold into the country; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether customs duty is required to be paid on this account; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are Government's plan to bring about a reduction in gold prices in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) Gold is not an essential commodity for the Government to take steps to regulate or control gold prices in the country.

Payment of DA to Central Government Employees

465. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the next instalment of DA has become due to the Central Government employees;

(b) if so, what decision Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) by when and in what manner it is likely to be paid to the Central Government employees?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir. It has become due from 1st July, 1990.

(b) and (c) As per the existing scheme for payment of Dearness Allowance to the Central Government employees, the additional instalment of dearness allowance due from 1st July becomes payable with the salary of September. It has been decided that in respect of all Central Government employees drawing pay above Rs. 3500/- p.m. the additional instalment of dearness allowance shall not be paid in cash, but instead it shall be credited to their respective provident fund accounts.

Production of Nickel

466. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is a net importer of Nickel in various forms and the annual outgo of foreign exchange on this account is nearly Rs. 300 crores;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Central Govt. have sanctioned a project for production of Nickel ore at Sukinda area in Orissa as far back as 1974; if so, the total amount sanctioned and spent so far; and

(c) whether indigenous technology for this purpose is available in the country; if not, whether Government propose to invite tenders from internationally reputed firms to help India in processing the Nickel ore available in Sukinda area, if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sanction was accorded for setting up of a nickel plant in Orissa in 1974 based on indigenous technology.